

H1N1 Swine Influenza Fact Sheet for Schools

Mississippi State Department of Health

- Mississippi has had no confirmed cases of swine flu as of April 28, 2009, despite confirmed cases of swine flu in some areas of the United States.
- The Mississippi State Department of Health does not recommend school closure under the current situation.
- Most cases of swine flu in the United States have caused only mild illness. Since flu spreads easily, however, it is important that no student comes to school with flu-like symptoms at any time of the year.
 - Symptoms of flu-like illness include: fever (over 100 degrees F.), cough, sore throat and runny nose as well as muscle pain and fatigue. Some additional symptoms may be experienced with swine flu, including vomiting or diarrhea.
- If you suspect your child is becoming ill, call your doctor to determine if your child needs to be seen by them.
- Parents can help protect themselves and their children and reduce the spread of seasonal or swine flu by taking the following precautions:
 - Wash hands frequently with soap and water.
 - Use hand sanitizer. Gels, rubs and hand wipes all work well, as long as they contain at least 60% alcohol.
 - Cover coughs and sneezes with tissues or by coughing into the inside of the elbow, and to dispose of tissues properly.
 - Stay away from people who are sick.
- School officials are working with the school nurses and local health officials to monitor any changes in the situation and will make all decisions in consultation with them and state officials.

You may also get information at www.HealthyMS.com, www.cdc.gov, or contact your local county health department.

April 28, 2009